



## ABOUT UNAFF

**HOW IT BEGAN:** As one of the oldest solely documentary film festivals in the US, UNAFF has grown and earned the respect of audiences and filmmakers alike for its fearless independence and integrity. It was founded in 1998 by Stanford educator and film critic Jasmina Bojic in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**In 1998:** UNAFF presented 22 documentaries over 3 days, received over 50 submissions, reviewed by 8 jury members

**In 2025:** UNAFF presented 60 documentaries over 11 days film festival, received 600 submissions, reviewed by 25 jury members

**Over the past 28 years, UNAFF juries have selected:**

- **39 documentaries which received Oscar nominations:**
  - *Regret to Inform, Genghis Blues, Long Night's Journey Into Day, LaLee's Kin: The Legacy of Cotton, Promises, Daughter from Danang, When Abortion Was Illegal, Twist of Faith, God Sleeps in Rwanda, War/Dance, Salim Baba, Trouble the Water, The Garden, Burma VJ, China's Unnatural Disaster - The Tears of Sichuan Province, The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers, Rabbit a la Berlin, Which Way Home, Gasland, Killing In the Name, Waste Land, The Barber of Birmingham: Foot Soldier of The Civil Rights Movement, Karama Has No Walls, Facing Fear, King's Point, Prison Terminal: The Last Days Of Private Jack Hall, White Earth, Dirty Wars, The Poster Girl, Last Day of Freedom, Hunger Ward, Tell the Truth and Run: George Seldes and the American Press, Attica, Writing With Fire, When We Were Bullies, To Kill a Tiger, Death by Numbers, Sugarcane and Porcelain War.*
- **8 documentaries which won Academy Awards:**
  - *The Panama Deception, Thoth, The Blood of Yingzhou District, Freeheld, Taxi to the Dark Side, Saving Face, Innocente and Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl)*

## UNAFF PROGRAMS:

- **UNAFF TFF (Traveling Film Festival)** – The first Traveling Film Festival for documentary films in the world. Since 2000, TFF films are initially screened at the main festival in October before going on the road and have taken place in more than 60 places in the US and internationally in Canada, Cambodia, France, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.
- **UNAFF in Schools** - (targeted at middle & high school students), since 2005, provides films of interest specifically for teens, followed by interesting open discussions with filmmakers and experts in the field of study
- **UNAFF for Seniors** – since 2007, brings documentaries to senior citizens, helping to keep their minds active and engaged
- **UNAFF in Libraries** – since 2008, utilizing already defined public spaces dedicated to diverse interests, our collaboration with libraries brings together documentary films and books.
- **UNAFF & Kids** (targeted at 7–12-year-olds) – since 2008, provides age-appropriate films followed by “meet the filmmaker” and hands on activities to teach them in a fun way about the world around us
- **UNAFF Café** – since 2010, maintains a steady supply of interesting films and informal discussions throughout the year, free and open to the public
- **UNAFF Panels** – since 2010, provides a platform for some of the best experts addressing challenging topics
- **UNAFF With Veterans** – since 2014, brings documentaries to veterans and their families
- **UNAFF Women Salon** – in 2015 we started a forum targeting women who may, may not otherwise find time for the regular screenings, in environment which encourages active discussion and engagement.

## UNAFF Awards include a CASH prize

- UNAFF Grand Jury Award for Best Documentary \$2000
- UNAFF Grand Jury Award for Best Short Documentary \$1000
- UNAFF Award for Best Cinematography \$500
- UNAFF Award for Best Editing \$500
- UNAFF Youth Vision Award \$500

and UNAFF provides filmmakers with pass credentials, guest festival passes and some assistance with lodging and airfare. In addition to screenings, UNAFF provides filmmakers the opportunity to present their work through panel discussions and Q&As and to meet distributors and leaders of community organizations.